

A NEW APHID GENUS AND SPECIES FOUND IN ENGLAND.

By FRED. V. THEOBALD.

Genus **Laingia**, nov.

This marked genus appears to be intermediate between *Atheroides*, Haliday, and *Sipha*, Passerini.

The characters are as follows: Body elongate in the apterous female. Head somewhat rounded in front to almost flat, moderately large; no frontal or antennal tubercles. Eyes large; ocular process prominent (fig. 1, E, *oc.p.*) and truncate. Proboscis (C) rather short and thick; last two segments of about equal length. Antennae (A) rather short, of five segments, reaching to or just past the pronotum (B). Thoracic segments large and distinct. Legs rather short and thick, the prothoracic

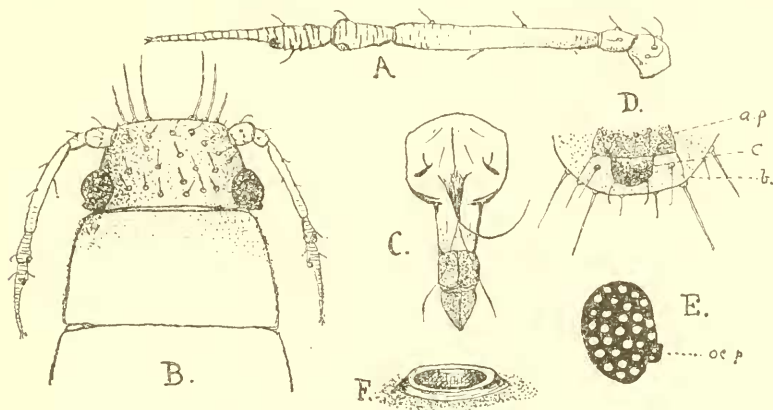


Fig. 1. *Laingia psammae*, sp. n.: A, antenna of apterous viviparous ♀; B, head and prothorax; C, proboscis; D, anal plate (*a.p.*), cauda (*c*), apical segment (*b*); E, eye, ocular process (*oc.p.*); F, cornicle.

pair far from the mesothoracic. Cornicles (F) round, very slightly raised. Cauda (D, *c*) rather small, broad, parallel-sided and slightly convex apically. Anal plate (D, *a.p.*) somewhat rounded apically, broader than cauda, sides straight but divergent; both anal plate and cauda hidden by the prominent semicircular apical segment of the body (D, *b*). Integument finely spinulose. A few short hairs on the body; long, thicker ones on head and apex.

This genus differs from *Sipha* in the non-knobbed cauda and from *Atheroides* in the non-rounded cauda. Superficially it bears some resemblance to *Thripsaphis*, but the ocular processes at once separate it from that genus.

I have named it after Mr. F. Laing, of the British Museum, who pointed out to me that it appeared to be intermediate between *Atheroides* and *Sipha*.

Laingia psammae, sp. nov.

Apterous viviparous female.—Elongate, rather narrow. Colour varying from dull straw to dingy brownish-green. Eyes dark. Legs short, rather thick, darker than body. Abdomen with dusky lateral patches and small dusky spots; apical segment dusky, also apex of cauda; a dusky area around base of cornicles; anal plate dusky.

Antennae of five segments, as long as or a little longer than head and pronotum ; 1st segment wider and longer than 2nd ; 3rd as long as to a little longer than 5th ; 4th small, from one-fourth to a little more than the length of the 3rd ; 5th with basal area as long as to a little longer than the 4th ; four curved hairs on basal segment ; two on 2nd ; three to four on 3rd ; one on 4th near apex, opposite the sensorium ; two on apex of basal area of the 5th ; one primary and several secondary sensoria at junction of basal area and flagellum ; segments 3-5 imbricated, the last markedly so ; at apex three small hairs. The more or less rounded head bears six long thick hairs in front and several shorter ones passing on to the vertex. Eyes large, with prominent quadrate ocular processes. Proboscis rather short and thick, reaching to the second coxae ; apical and penultimate segments about equal in length, both dusky. Integument finely spinulose ; a few short hairs on body, longest towards the apex. Apical segment rounded, with four long hairs and some short ones, completely covering the cauda. Cornicles round, on slightly elevated cones, which are surrounded by a small dark area. Cauda short and broad, convex at apex, finely spinose, with two long apical hairs ; dark, especially apically. Anal plate broader than cauda, sides straight but divergent. Legs rather short and thick, a few hairs on femora ; more on tibiae ; pro- and mesothoracic pairs widely separate.

Length, 1.9-2.2 mm.

Locality. Littlestone, Kent (vii.1921).

Food-plants.—Marram grass (*Psamma arcnaria*) and meadow foxtail grass (*Alopecurus pratensis*).

Found first by Captain A. Duffield, M.C., in great abundance on the marram grass growing on the sandhills near Littlestone. It lives in the blossom heads, usually deeply hidden in the heads, being of much the same colour as the ripening blossoms and consequently not easily detected unless in large numbers. Whilst visiting Littlestone in September I could find no trace of living aphides, but all the ripe grass was smothered with their exuviae and black soot fungus. Mounted exuviae from meadow foxtail grass on the marsh near by show that it had also served as a food-plant. This Aphid produces much honey-dew, which attracted various insects. It was preyed upon by countless ladybird beetles, the chief being *Adalia bipunctata*, and also by many small Syrphid larvae. These, however, had not prevented great numbers of alatae from appearing, for I found large quantities of the cast nymph skins. The grass seed seemed to have been quite ruined by the swarms of this plant-louse.
